Keuper Gas Storage Project 17/09/2025
Local Liaison Group
Minutes of Meeting

Item	Summary	Actions
Meeting	Keuper Gas Storage Project (KGSP) Local Liaison Group (LLG)	
Details	Wednesday 17th September 2025, 6pm – 7pm, via MS Teams	
Attendees	Rebecca Eatwell, Font Communications (RE) Yasmin Stretton, Font Communications (YS) Peter Scott, Storengy UK (PSc) Beth Thomas, Storengy UK (BT) Richard Stevenson, Ineos (RS) Nicki Mableson, Lichfields (NM) Janet Burns, ERM (JB) Andrea Stott, Byley PC (AS) Tony Roberts, Lach Dennis and Lostock Green PC (TR) Simon Moorehead, Byley PC (clerk) (SM) Julia Wilson, Allostock PC Apologies: John Beecroft, Byley PC (JB) Steven Holmes, Cheshire West and Chester Council (SH) Hazel West, Allostock PC (HW)	
Item 1	**Welcome, introductions and approval of previous minutes**	
	Chair RE welcomed attendees to the meeting and provided introductions. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved and all actions have been completed.	
Item 2	**Update on Hydrogen in the North West**	
	RS ran through a brief update on hydrogen in the North West. • Following the financial approval of Eni's Liverpool Bay Carbon Capture and Storage project, HyNet has received government approval to begin construction, with operations expected to commence in 2028. • HyNet to be assessed in a separate, upcoming Government process, supported by £500m of funding. • The HyNet Alliance welcoming renewed government backing for regional industry which includes carbon capture projects in Cheshire and Flintshire which were selected to enter commercial negotiations with the Government for connection to the HyNet network. • HyNet recently held a Supply Chain Summit. • HyNet is rolling out its latest careers campaign. • Novelis' hydrogen fuel trial won a prestigious International Energy Agency award. Questions raised by attendees:	

	• AS requested a link for the careers campaign.	RE to circulate presentation with HyNet links.
Item 3	**Material Change Application Update**	
	BT provided an update on the Material Change Application including an overview of the project and the proposed changes. **Overview** • As detailed at the previous meeting KGSL plans to submit a 'Material Change' application to allow the consented KGSP to store hydrogen rather than natural gas, improve the associated infrastructure and allow connection to the HyNet Hydrogen Pipeline. • If the changes are approved, KGSP will store 1,300 gigawatt hours of hydrogen – more clean energy than any other facility in the UK and enough to power Liverpool's electricity demand for 22 weeks. • Consultation is due to commence on the Material Change Application in October 2025 for around 6 weeks. Stakeholders and residents will be contacted on launch and further information will be available on the project website www.kgsp.co.uk • The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) is the government agency responsible for administering the Material Change Application on behalf of the government. **Proposed changes** The proposed changes to the consented KGSP DCO which form the Material Change Application include: • The proposed storage of hydrogen gas rather than natural gas, including consolidation of pipelines; • Changes to the Gas Processing Plant (GPP) area and hydrogen compatible equipment, including a flare instead of a vent; • Moving non-hydrogen equipment to a utility compound adjacent to the GPP; • The National Transmission System (NTS) for natural gas is being replaced by the Hydrogen Above Ground Infrastructure (HAGI) for connection to the HyNet Hydrogen Pipeline. JB outlined the key environmental considerations for the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and Environmental Statement (ES), including which topic areas would be updated as part of the Material Change Application. Questions raised by attendees: • AS asked how big the stack is and when details about consultation would be released. BT said that the stack is modelled at 50m, an increase from the 25m stack in the consented DCO but that the stack is likely to be smaller	

	than this. The environmental assessments are based on a worst-case scenario and a visualisation would be shown during consultation. Details of the consultation would be announced in the coming weeks and the LLG will be notified. AS asked whether there would be a new substation required for the project. BT said that this was consented as part of the DCO, but that the route of the cables will be changed. • SM asked if there was a change to the size of the substation and if this would affect the parish.RS answered that the initial DCO included a connection to pylons in the middle of site and that the 2017 consent included a new substation in the middle of site. The Material Amendment Application will move the substation from one side to the other. It was reiterated that this was all fully consented already. • AS mentioned government guidelines on electrical infrastructure and financial compensation to local communities due to disruption. RS said the team would review the guidelines but suggested that new guidelines would be unlikely to affect something already consented. NM outlined that the relevant bill had not yet been passed and was currently in the House of Lords. • AS suggested that residents would want to know about the phasing of the construction and asked whether there were plans to expand the site in the future. • BT stated that details of the construction programme would be shared during the consultation but that there are no current plans and that any further expansion would require further planning and a new DCO. • AS asked if the hydrogen produced has already been sold. • RS answered that the demand exists and that Cadent have letters of intent rather than contracts regarding this. • AS asked if Teeside Hydrogen was going ahead. RS reiterated that the government promised to support one cluster for hydrogen, putting the North West and North East in competition. • SM asked about the cultural heritage change. JB answered that the change is due to updated policy which means the ancient monument on the site needs to be reassessed. • AS asked how noise and vibration are tested, including where are they tested from and would this information will be available at the consultation. JB answered that the levels are measured at the closest properties to the site using sound models at different distances and that this information will be available during consultation.	JB/ RS to look into the mentioned bill
Item 4	**Community Benefits**	

	BT provided a summary of the community benefit being proposed for the project and provided an overview of what Storengy already does in the community. • A community benefit fund similar to the funds previously in place for the other existing gas storage projects at the Holford Brinefield, will be put in place. This will see a total investment of **£400,000** across 10 years of construction • The project will also create up to **300** construction jobs and **30** operational jobs. • For the last 3 years Storengy has been the main sponsor for the Green Jobs Expo. • Storengy hold a position on the Employer Advisory Board, South Cheshire College for Green Skills • Storengy has hosted a Responsible Business Board for the last 5 years, which focuses on contribution to the community and impact to the local economy • Storengy focuses on site biodiversity, such as a bee breeding program (over 1.5 million bees and 45 hives). • Staff complete a volunteer day within the local community every year. Questions raised by attendees: • AS asked about involvement with local schools and colleges and stated that it was positive to see that the size of the community fund has been increased. She also stated that Byley parish council would carry out their own consultation in terms of the fund and asked if it would be solely for Byley parish. BT answered that the criteria and details for the fund are still being finalised but said that it would be managed by a third party which would be responsible for promoting it and considering the applications. • AS stated that it would be important to make the application process simple enough so not to exclude any community groups that don't have the relevant resources or experience of applying for funding. BT said that the application process would not be complex and that bringing on a third party would ensure that groups locally were aware of it. • AS asked if the fund was specifically intended to benefit the community and not intended for individual use. RS confirmed that it would be for groups and not individuals. • RE suggested that the proposed criteria of the fund could be covered at a future meeting.	RE to include community fund criteria on agenda for a future meeting
Item 5	**Any other business**	
	A proposed date for the next meeting will be circulated. AS requested the adopted minutes of the previous meeting and presentation.	Amended minutes from May and September to be circulated, along with presentation.